

Arizona Invasive Species Advisory Council

Leadership and Coordination Working Group

Tuesday August 7, 2007 Draft Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Brenda Smith (FWS)
Christine Conte (Center for Sonoran Desert studies)
Cindy Coping (Cattle Industry)
Dan Shein (Arizona State Parks)
Douglas Witte (Arizona State Land Department)
Gary Russell (USDA APHIS)
Jeffery Meyers (Arizona Department of Agriculture)
Joanne Roberts (Arizona State Parks)
John Gerstenberger (PETsMART)
Larry Riley (Arizona Game and Fish Department)
Melinda Deswood (Navajo Nation) present by telephone
Melissa Keckler (Goodman Schwartz Public Affairs)
Tonya Norwood-Pearson (AACD)

Meeting Minutes:

The Arizona Invasive Species Advisory Council Leadership and Coordination Working Group was called to order at 9:00 a.m. on August 7th, 2007 in room 321 of the Arizona State Land Dept. 1616 W. Adams, Phoenix Arizona.

ASLD Deputy Commissioner Jamie Hogue was introduced to the working group members and each Council / advisory member was in turn recognized. Larry Riley reviewed the goals and objectives of the committee as presented in the charter. He stressed the importance of close coordination between tribal, state, federal, and local agencies and the involvement of the private sector at large as the committee moved towards its final recommendations. Copies of the National Invasive Species Management Plan were distributed to the work group attendees, and Mr. Riley suggested that committee members refer the sections on Leadership and Coordination as a template for substance and format of the draft document to be presented to the Council on October 2.

Work Group Co-lead Douglas Witte then opened the meeting for discussion and identification of all key organizations who's involvement is critical in carrying out the Councils final objectives. It was suggested that the list of cooperating agencies and organizations initially be limited to land owners, land managers, and resources management decision makers. The following agencies and organizations were identified:

- Arizona Dept. of Game and Fish
- Arizona Dept. of Agriculture
- Arizona Dept. of Land Management
- Arizona Dept. of Parks & Rec.
- Arizona Dept. of Transportation
- Arizona Dept. of Water Resources

- U.S. Forest Service
- U.S. Bureau of Land Management
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
- U.S. Dept. of Defense
- U.S. National Parks Service
- U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs
- U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
- U.S. Corp. of Engineers
- U.S.D.A NRCS
- The State of Sonora Mexico
- Nature Conservancy
- Tribal Natural Resource Agencies
- Irrigation Districts
- Municipal & County governments
- Home Owners Assoc.'s
- Corporate Utilities (APS, SRP, etc.)
- Mineral lessee's and private mines
- U.S. Boarder Patrol
- Weed Management Areas
- Grazing Lessees & Land Ownders & other Land Trust parties

The next order of business was to identify national and international partners, key to the coordination of regional efforts. New Mexico, Utah, Nevada, California, and Colorado were identified as important the Councils objectives involving national issues and the development of a working relationship with Mexico as important to international issues and concerns. Contact with neighboring states with regard to paralleling invasive species programs should be initiated in the near future. In addition, the Western Governors Association and the Arizona / Mexico Commission were identified as two existing organizations where the issue of invasive species should be introduced and discussed. These are two strategic organizations where such a dialog could be initiated even before the Councils strategic plan is completed.

The last item addressed by the working group was the concept of a Center for Invasive Species. The committee's vision as to how such a facility should or could be structured (i.e. non profit, university affiliated, government agency) varied widely. It was, however, agreed that the Center should include leadership and coordination as a component of its overall mission including data base clearing house, scientific / technical information transfer, research, etc., etc. The Arizona Water Institute was identified as an existing model. It was also mentioned that the University of Arizona Tucson is developing a graduate level curriculum to be presented during the 2007 fall semester, during which students will explore the aspects of design and function of a theoretical Center for Invasive Species. The committee directed the co-team leader to invite university personnel to one of the next working group meetings to review and discuss the concept of the Center for Invasive Species curriculum and the expected outcome.

Next working group meeting via teleconference is scheduled for Thursday August 16th from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. All committee members and advisors within the greater Phoenix area were encouraged to meet at the Arizona State Land Department Commissioners conference room 321. Committee member and advisors outside the greater Phoenix area can call into the teleconferencing network by dialing (866) 561-0562 pass code 240937.

The working group also agreed to meet the morning of Sept. 6th from 10:00 to 12:00 a.m. at the same location (ASLD rm. 321)

Meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.